

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /167 W

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R 261914Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2070

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, EEC, US

SUBJECT: JOBERT INTERVIEW ON FRENCH POLICY IN EUROPE
AND WITH THE UNITED STATES

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN APRIL 25
DIE ZEIT, FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT DISCUSSED A
"CONFEDERATED" EUROPE, EC INDUSTRIAL/DEFENSE POLICY,
EC CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US AND DIALOGUE WITH THE ARAB
WORLD. JOBERT ALSO SPOKE OF HIS OWN AND POMPIDOU'S
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RELATED ROLES IN FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY-MAKING, AND

SEEMED TO BE HINTING, ELLIPTICALLY, AT FUTURE POLITICAL AMBITIONS. MAIN POINTS OF INTERVIEW FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. CONFEDERATED EUROPE. DIE ZEIT REPORTER CITED INTERVIEW LAST WEEK WITH LE MONDE IN WHICH JOBERT REFERRED TO POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A FEDERATED OR CONFEDERATED EUROPE. IN REPLY, JOBERT SAID THE LE MONDE INTERVIEW HAD BEEN IMPROVISED, THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE TEXT AFTERWARDS AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE SAID MERELY "CONFEDERATED", WHICH IS WHAT HE IS THINKING OF "IN THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART." JOBERT SAID A CONFEDERATED EUROPE "IS PRIMARILY A FLEXIBLE ORGANIZATION, WHICH MAY HAVE A GOVERNMENT ON THE LEVEL OF CONFEDERATION. BY WAY OF DELEGATION IT OBTAINS A NUMBER OF COMPETENCES OR A NUMBER OF DUTIES WHICH HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH WITHIN A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME." BUT JOBERT EMPHASIZED THAT "EUROPE IS SOMETHING NEBULOUS. IT WILL NOT COME INTO BEING ALL OF A SUDDEN, VERY SMOOTHLY, AND VERY BRIGHTLY. EUROPE WILL COME INTO BEING GRADUALLY...BUT DO NOT EXPECT ME TO DESCRIBE A COMPLETE SYSTEM. IN THE MONTHS TO COME ANY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER WILL SUBMIT PROPOSALS ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS EVEN IF I DO NOT CONTINUE IN OFFICE. BUT THIS MUST BE DONE WITH CARE. WE MUST FIRST CONSULT EACH OTHER AS WE DID IN GYMnich (I.E. WITHOUT PUBLICITY) TO SEE WHETHER WE CAN FOLLOW THIS COURSE WITHOUT SHOCKING ONE OR THE OTHER...WHAT MATTERS IS THAT THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT..MUST MAKE THE MUTUAL PLEDGE THAT BY 1980, EVERY STATE ON A CERTAIN NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, ASSIGNS PART OF ITS OWN POWER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CONFEDERATION. IF SUCH AN ATTITUDE DOES NOT EXIST, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN."

2. EC DEFENSE/INDUSTRIAL POLICY. ASKED ABOUT A COMMON EUROPEAN DEFENSE POLICY, JOBERT WARNED AGAINST A SYSTEMATIC ENUMERATION OF THE COMPETENCES OF THE CONFEDERATION IN THE AREAS OF DEFENSE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS. INSTEAD, HE SPOKE OUT FOR A COMMON EEC INDUSTRIAL POLICY--NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO ARMS--BUT RATHER TO JOINT AVIATION AND COMPUTER POLICIES.

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SUBSEQUENTLY, SAID JOBERT, "DEFENSE MATTERS CAN BE DISCUSSED IF IT IS APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THEM SOME DAY, WHICH I DO NOT AT ALL KNOW."

3. EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE. JOBERT POSED THE RHETORICAL QUESTION "WHY SHOULD IT REALLY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ARAB STATES AND EUROPE TO TALK WITH EACH OTHER?" HE SAID SOME CONSIDER IT FATAL IF THEY DO SO, BUT NOTED

THAT "BRANDT GOES FROM ALGIERS TO CAIRO SPEAKING THE
LANGUAGE THAT I SPOKE 6 AND EVEN 8 MONTHS AGO. HE
OBVIOUSLY FEELS AT EASE WITH THIS VENTURE, AND I
PERFECTLY UNDERSTAND THAT. HE IS A REALIST AND HAS
REALIZED THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF NECESSITIES AND
OBLIGATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARAB
WORLD...I EVEN GO FURTHER. AT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION
IN NEW YORK, I REMARKED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS
CONCLUDED A CONSIDERABLE BILATERAL DEAL WITH SAUDI
ARABIA. I THOUGHT THAT ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE AND PAPERS
WOULD START LAMENTING NOW. BUT IT SEEMS THAT WHAT

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HAPPENS IN FEBRUARY IS IMPORTANT, BUT WHAT HAPPENS IN APRIL IS NOT."

4. US/EC CONSULTATIONS. JOBERT'S ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION SEEMS TO SUPPORT THE NOTION THAT THE FRENCH CAN ACCEPT AN INFORMAL AND PRAGMATIC CONSULTATION PROCEDURE BUT WOULD OPPOSE FORMALIZATION. JOBERT ASSERTED: "WE ALL HAVE REALIZED THAT ALL THE THEORETIC UNCLASSIFIED

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AND ALL TOO SYSTEMATIC MATTERS SIMPLY WERE ANNOYING. IN MY VIEW EVERYTHING THAT IS THEORETICAL IN FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD BE HATEFUL; EVERYTHING THAT IS TOO INTELLECTUAL, AS WELL. TO HELL WITH THEORIES, TO HELL WITH EXAGGERATIONS, TO HELL WITH EXCESSIVE FANTASY AND OBSTINACY. NOW, LET ME REFER TO YOUR QUESTION. I THINK THAT IN EVERYDAY POLITICS GOOD COOPERATION CAN EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE ON THE LEVEL OF INFORMATION. IT CAN DEVELOP QUITE NORMALLY, BE IT BILATERALLY, BE IT ON THE COMMUNITY LEVEL. I DO NOT SEE ANY DISADVANTAGE IN THAT, THOUGH I BELIEVE THAT FAILURE WILL SET IN- AS SOON AS THIS CONSULTATION IS FORMALIZED. I PREFER HOMEOPATHIC TREATMENT TO SHOCK THERAPY. IN 1973 WE SAW THAT THE SHOCK THERAPY TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO EUROPE WAS A BAD TREATMENT".

5. POMPIDOU ROLE. JOBERT SAID FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS HAD BEEN THE POLICY OF POMPIDOU, BUT "THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY FOREIGN MINISTER WHO, AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ABROAD, WAS FREER IN WORD AND DEED THAN I WAS." THIS WAS SO BECAUSE "I KNEW EXACTLY THE SCOPE OF MY FREEDOM." JOBERT SAID "IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS I PROPOSED TO POMPIDOU...SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT EUROPEAN MEETINGS, ABOVE ALL, ON THE LEVEL OF HEADS OF STATE...IN SUCH CASES, MY SOMEWHAT ROMANTIC DISPOSITION WAS CONFRONTED WITH POMPIDOU'S COMMON SENSE, PROFOUND JUDGMENT AND GREAT CIRCUMSPECTION. HE SAID... IN DECEMBER RATHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER...OR YES, YOU CAN DO THAT, BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY, AND THE WAY YOU ACHIEVE YOUR OBJECTIVE DOES COUNT." JOBERT CONCLUDED THIS PASSAGE WITH THE ELLIPTICAL REMARK: I HAVE ALWAYS USED MY TALENT TO FIND OUT THE MOST EXPEDIENT WAY. I HAVE ACHIEVED MY OBJECTIVE OR AM ABOUT TO GET THERE, OR MAYBE I GET THERE TOMORROW, IF I'M STILL ALIVE."

HILLENBRAND

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